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Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead



THE
Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

together with the

REPORT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(G. A. J. BROWNE, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.)

1953

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :—

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

*Meat and Foods Inspector, Shops Inspector,
Building Surveyor, Inspector under Petroleum Acts :—*

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I

Sanitary Inspectors :—

B. G. B. SOUTH, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

G. J. L. HORNE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

FOR THE

Rural District of Forehoe & Henstead
Norfolk

For the Year ended 31st December, 1953

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1953.

The estimated population is 23,300, a decrease of 170 since 1952.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

In the first two months of the year the weather was severe with snow and frost and abnormal conditions of tide and wind, causing great havoc on the coast at the end of January. Fortunately, this district escaped serious damage from the storm.

Early Spring was unseasonably warm, with temperatures in the seventies, followed by chilly winds in the latter part of the season.

The Summer was cold and wet with a serious absence of warm sunshine, while the Autumn was exceptionally mild with a minimum of frost.

1953 gave us a wild Winter, a short hot Spring, a cold wet Summer and a prolonged mild Autumn.

GENERAL.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	69,267
Resident population mid-year 1953 (as estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	23,300
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	...	...	...	...	7,853
Rateable value (end of 1953)	...	...	...	...	£87,263
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£348

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female	Forehoe & Henstead (1953)	England & Wales (1953)	Forehoe & Henstead (1952)
Legitimate	338	165	173			
Illegitimate	20	10	10			
Total	358	175	183	15.36	15.5	13.25

STILL BIRTHS:

	Rate per 1,000 Population—					
Legitimate	5	4	1			
Illegitimate	1	1	—			
Total	6	5	1	0.26	0.35	0.25

DEATHS:	343	177	166	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population—	14.71	11.4	11.03
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Maternal Mortality:

— — —

Infant Mortality:

	Rate per 1,000 Live Births—					
Legitimate	7	5	2			
Illegitimate	1	1	—			
Total	8	6	2	22.32	26.8	12.46

There were 358 live births registered during the year and 343 deaths from all causes. The birth rate is, therefore, 15.36 and the crude death rate 14.71, compared with 13.25 and 11.03 respectively in 1952.

Comparability factors applied to these figures, give adjusted rates for comparison with those for England and Wales. This birth rate is 16.59 compared with 15.5 for the whole country and the death rate is 11.92 compared with 11.4 for England and Wales.

This means that if the age groups in the rural district corresponded exactly with those in the whole country, more than the average number of babies were born, but a slightly larger number of people died during the year.

For the first whole year, the deaths occurring in the hospitals and institutions have been accredited to the district in which they occurred. Wicklewood and Swainsthorpe both come into this category and this is the main reason for a larger number of deaths being registered and for a higher death rate.

There were 8 infant deaths and 6 of these were under the age of one month, 5 of them occurring on the day of birth. All were due to prematurity or congenital defects, in two cases, complicated by pneumonia. The infant mortality rate is 22.32, compared with the abnormally low figure of 12.46 in 1952. The national rate, however, is well above this figure, namely 26.8.

Not only have more babies been born, but a larger than average number of them have survived their first year.

There were no deaths from notifiable infectious disease and only two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following causes of death show increased figures for 1953:—Cancer, 18 more—twice the number of cases of cancer of the lung; Coronary Thrombosis, 10 more; other heart and circulatory diseases, 45 more; Pneumonia and Bronchitis, 17 more.

These increases can be accounted for by the inclusion of deaths from the two institutions mentioned above.

The 10 cases of cancer of the lung, compared with 5 last year, were, all but one, over the age of 64 years. None of these worked in a specially dusty atmosphere and, indeed, four of them had been outdoor workers on farms or roads. Their smoking habits were not investigated.

The causes of death given in the following Table are supplied by the Registrar General:—

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	16	17	33
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	2	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	19	22	41
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	30	14	44
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	45	54	99
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	10	15	25
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	14	5	19
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	6	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH				Males	Females	Totals
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
Hyperphasia of prostate	...	...	...	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	12	12	24
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	—	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	1	4	5
Suicide	...	...	...	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals				177	166	343

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Ages								Total
	0-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65	
Scarlet Fever	2	7	22	5	—	—	—	—	36
Whooping Cough	14	18	21	3	1	2	1	—	60
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	17	20	36	9	2	2	—	—	86
Pneumonia	—	—	3	1	1	3	—	2	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	7	10
Dysentery	1	2	3	3	1	4	—	—	14
Food Poisoning	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	5
Ophthalmio Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	37	48	89	23	7	15	4	10	233

There were only 233 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, about 156 less than in 1952. This decrease was entirely accounted for by a reduction in the number of cases of measles, from 243 to 86 in 1953.

Apart from measles there were minor variations such as 8 more cases of scarlet fever and 16 more cases of whooping cough.

Poliomyelitis.

The most gratifying reduction in incidence was in poliomyelitis as only one case was notified compared with 13 in 1952. This is the smallest number of cases since 1947.

The case was a child of 4 at Surlingham who had a mild attack of the non-paralytic type of disease and made a complete recovery.

Diphtheria.

Again this year, no case of diphtheria was notified.

Freedom from this very dangerous disease is due to the high degree of protection afforded by the immunisation of nearly every child in the community.

Constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that the percentage of immunised children does not fall below the present level.

Enteric Diseases.

No case of typhoid was notified and a case thought at first to be para-typhoid B was found to be due to a rare type of organism which causes slight or no symptoms of disease.

The organism was isolated from a child and the whole family including a baby of 3 days old became symptomless carriers. Considerable anxiety was caused by the first diagnosis, but the minimum of illness occurred in the family. The new born baby thrived well and showed no untoward symptoms.

This incident shows the great value of having first-class bacteriological assistance at hand through the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Dysentery.

There were 14 cases of dysentery, 5 of them adults and all of them the Sonn  type.

The cases fell into two groups, one at Hethel (5 cases) and the other associated with an outbreak in Norwich city where members of the affected families worked.

Although three of the cases were under 5, and two of these were infants, all made an uneventful recovery.

Winter Vomiting.

In January, an epidemic of vomiting was reported from Kirby Bedon School and the surrounding district. Single cases occurred for some weeks during the school holidays and in several families the parents were the first to take ill.

The disease was mild and lasted only a day or two in each case. No food or drink was found to contain infecting organisms and it was assumed that this was an outbreak of winter vomiting, of which the cause is still unknown.

In November, a number of cases of vomiting were reported from Shotesham school. Bacteriological investigation

revealed no intestinal organism and the attacks were mild and short-lived and recovery complete. Possible vehicles of infection such as food and water were investigated, but found to be free from infecting organisms, so it was again assumed that this was an outbreak of winter vomiting.

Meningitis.

5 cases of meningitis were notified during the year, an unusually large number. Four were children, two of them under 5 years and the other two in the 10—14 group.

One child of 4 suffered from an attack of influenzal meningitis which unfortunately left him with such severe deafness that special educational provision will have to be made for him.

The rest of the cases were meningococcal infections and recovery was complete in each case. There appeared to be no connection between them.

Food Poisoning.

There were 5 cases of food poisoning notified. All cases were due to salmonella typhimurium and one of these was the wife of the owner of a flock of 40 ducks at Trowse. Efforts were made to obtain a veterinary opinion on the number of these ducks actually infected. No very conclusive evidence having been obtained, however, the owner was recommended to sell the whole flock as table birds and this was eventually done. Unfortunately, the local authority has no power to require that ducks laying infected eggs should be destroyed or withdrawn from laying. It is only possible to appeal to the public spirit of the owner not to sell such birds as laying ducks.

It is always safer to use duck eggs for food only after boiling for at least ten minutes.

Psittacosis at Wramplingham.

A very unusual incident involving ducklings and a human duck-handler was reported in January.

Following repeated losses of day-old ducklings specimens were sent for veterinary inspection. While this investigation was taking place, a duck-handler on the farm was taken ill with what appeared to be a virus pneumonia. This infection did not respond to the usual anti-biotics and the diagnosis was in some doubt until the veterinary report of psittacosis infection in the ducks was received.

The human case who lived in a nearby district was there-upon treated with chloramphenicol and made a complete recovery.

This was the first time that psittacosis had been confirmed in ducks. It used to be thought to be an infection confined to the parrot family.

This disease should therefore always be borne in mind when a handler of ducks or poultry suffers from an unusual form of pneumonia.

In this case, all the medical practitioners of the district were informed of the details of the case and warned to look out for further infections.

An emergency order was sent from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the slaughter of all the infected ducks and the control of their sale.

No further incidents of this kind have been reported.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives the ages and sex incidence during the year:—

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	5	4	1	1	1	—	—

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1953.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
Male	57	61	14	19	71	80
Female	36	35	14	13	50	48
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	93	96	28	32	121	128
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There were 128 cases on the Register at the end of 1953. 3 more pulmonary cases and 4 more of the non-pulmonary type. 18 new notifications were received, 13 being of the pulmonary type.

It is interesting to note that of the 8 male pulmonary cases notified, 3 were over the age of 55, whereas the female cases were 2 of school age and 3 between 25 and 35. This follows the normal pattern of disease in young women and older men.

There were only 2 deaths. 1 male and 1 female, both pulmonary cases and over 35.

Incidence.

Area	Pulmonary	Rate	Non-Pulmonary	Rate
County of Norfolk	170	0.45	54	0.14
Forehoe & Henstead	13	0.56	5	0.21

Mortality.

County of Norfolk	24	0.06	2	0.005
Forehoe & Henstead	2	0.08	—	—
England & Wales (all forms)	—	0.20	—	—

It will be seen that this year, both incidence and mortality are a little above the average for the County for both types of disease, but that the mortality is still greatly below the average for the country as a whole.

Diagnosis.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was operating in Norwich from 19th May to 6th November, excepting the month of August and this may account for more cases being discovered this year.

By the courtesy of the Medical Director the following figures have been made available:—

		Numbers found with active tuberculosis			Cancer of Lung Male
		Male	Female	Total	
Total examined	29,778	15	11	26	7
County residents		5	2	7	1

Although all districts bordering on the City of Norwich are represented in these findings, some at least of those examined will have been residents in Forehoe and Henstead.

There is no better preventive health measure than regular chest X-rays especially for the susceptible age groups, namely, the younger women and the older men. Not only can tuberculosis be discovered at an early curable stage, but other

conditions, such as cancer of the lung, which is becoming more common every year.

I hope that the adult population of the district will take full advantage of the next session of the Unit in Norwich. It is a simple procedure, takes only a few minutes and no undressing is required. I should like to record a large number of attendances in my next Annual Report.

Treatment.

Admission to Sanatoria and Hospitals:—

			Male	Female	Total
1952	...	...	12	10	22
1953	...	...	16	9	25

As there were only 13 new cases notified, but 25 admissions to Sanatoria, it would appear that the area is well supplied with hospital accommodation.

Prevention.

B.C.G. Vaccination for the County of Norfolk:—

	1953	1952	1951	1950
Contacts of known cases: 0—4 years	53	84	—	—
Contacts of known cases: 5—15 years	*317	56	—	—
Contacts of known cases: over 16 years	34	11	—	—
School leavers ...		291	—	—
Other negative reactors ...		35	—	—
Totals	404	477	314	99

* Includes school leavers.

It is hoped that this useful preventive health measure will be extended to the school leavers of the district in the near future, particularly those in the fringe parishes, the majority of whom take up work in the city. It is known that those who meet the infection of tuberculosis for the first time in their late teens tend to have a more severe form of illness. The protection afforded by B.C.G. to those who have not yet met the disease may well be a real factor in prevention.

Non-Pulmonary Type of Disease.

There were 5 cases of this type notified, 4 of them infected glands of the neck and the other an infection of the knee joint. 2 children under school age, 1 school child and 2 young adults were affected.

The milk supply was investigated in each case and close human contacts were offered examination at the Chest Clinic.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1948. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

At the beginning of the year, restriction notices were still outstanding on 3 herds, 2 for tuberculosis and 1 for brucella abortus.

During the year 3 notifications of infected bulk samples were received from the County Council, all in respect of brucella abortus. In one case, all the milk was already being pasteurised so no restriction notice was necessary. In the other two, notices were served on the whole herd until an infected animal had been identified in each case. The restrictions were then removed from all but these two cows.

In the 3 herds with notices outstanding from 1952, a tuberculous animal was found and slaughtered in each of the 2 herds. In the herd infected with brucella abortus, when 3 negative individual samples had been obtained, the restrictions were withdrawn.

I am very glad to record that throughout the year no milk infected with tuberculosis was discovered in the district. This is the first time since the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 came into force.

It is to be hoped that more and more milk will be pasteurised and more T.T. herds built up so that the danger of drinking milk infected with live tubercle bacilli may be removed for ever.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

The following Table gives details of cases notified during the year:—

Total number of cases notified ..	...	8
Number of cases confirmed ..	...	2
Number of cases not confirmed ..	...	6
Total number of cattle suspected ..	...	1
Cases confirmed in cattle ...	...	1
Cases unconfirmed in cattle ...	...	—
Total number of pigs suspected ...	...	6
Cases confirmed in pigs ...	...	1
Cases unconfirmed in pigs ...	...	5
Total number of other animals suspected (mink 3)		
Cases confirmed in mink ...	...	1
Cases unconfirmed in mink ...	...	—

Restriction "A" notices were received in respect of 6 pigs, 1 beast and 3 mink suspected of having died of anthrax. Only 2 cases were confirmed after veterinary inspection, 1 pig and 1 beast.

This is a great reduction in incidence compared with 1952 when there were 8 confirmed cases.

HOUSING.

Waiting List.

No. of applicants at 31.12.52	...	...	623
No. of applicants at 31.12.53	...	...	629

Analysis of Waiting List.

Small Unit families	...	...	508
Large Unit families	...	...	121

(Small Unit families are those suitable for one or two bedroomed bungalows and consist largely of married couples with one child or two children of the same sex. Large Unit families represent those with more than two children, or two children over 8 years of age of opposite sex).

Agricultural Workers	...	...	111
Others	...	...	518

Local Authority Houses—Position at 31.12.53.

Pre-War	...	...	844
Post-War	732
Total proposed houses	142

Houses erected during 1953.

Permanent	130
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Ex-Government Camps—No. of families occupying:—

At 31st December, 1952	172
At 31st December, 1953	181
Total huts converted into dwellings at 31.12.53	...	...	181
Total number of applicants housed in Camps from Waiting List during 1953			80

Requisitioned properties.

Number of families occupying requisitioned property at 31.12.53	2
---	-----	-----	---

Although the Council built 132 houses in 1953 and 109 private dwellings were erected, there was no decrease in the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses. On 31st December, 1953, there were still 629 applicants who wished to be re-housed by the Council, the majority of them being the small unit families.

The proportion of agricultural workers remained the same as last year. Those in huttled accommodation are all applicants for permanent houses and they represent over a quarter of the applicants.

During 1953, 189 building licences were issued so that it seems as though private building is now drawing level with, and is likely to exceed, Council house building.

It is hoped that in the effort to produce cheaper houses, standards will not be too seriously lowered. It would be unfortunate if we returned to the jerry-building which was so commonly seen between the two wars.

It is interesting to note the continued rise in the demand for bungalows instead of houses. There is no special health reason to prefer one form of dwelling to the other, but if the bungalows are too small and cramped it will not be long before they became overcrowded by a growing family. It is doubtful if enough houses are being built at present to take the families who will soon have outgrown their bungalows. The only other solution is for adequate land to be acquired in the first place so that additional rooms can be built on as the family grows.

Condemned Property.

There are 92 condemned houses still standing, 54 of them still occupied, and 38 of them empty.

During the year, 4 houses were demolished and 4 ceased to be occupied.

These figures represent an unknown proportion of grade V property in the district, as no housing survey has yet been carried out. This has now become a matter of urgency as all local authorities are being asked to clear their slum property in the next five years.

If only the housing survey had been completed, as it has been in all but twelve other districts in the country, the Council could now go ahead with a comprehensive scheme for demolition and replacement. It is hoped that 1954 will see this much overdue procedure well under way.

Improvement of Pre-War Council Houses.

The time has now come for the serious consideration by the Council of the provision of modern amenities in the pre-war Council house. It is surely to be regretted that there are Council tenants who still have no sink with drainage, no indoor sanitation or bath. Housing authorities do not seem to have the same inducement to improve their property as private owners although it would be to their ultimate financial advantage to do so.

It is in the interests of public health that these amenities should be as universally available as is practicable.

WATER SUPPLY.

District Scheme.

I am glad to report good progress with the provision of a main water supply to further parishes in the district.

Work was begun in November in Area 5, comprising Shotesham and Saxlingham, and by the end of the year three-quarters of the mains had been laid.

Contracts have been placed also for Area 1, the parishes of Marlingford, Colton, Barford and Wramplingham. This work is expected to start in the near future.

Newton Flotman.

The Interim Scheme for Newton Flotman for the pumping of water from the Council's 7" bore hole at Station Road was completed during the year.

This provided a mains water supply to 108 properties.

Kimberley.

The supply scheme for this village was submitted to the Ministry for approval.

SEWERAGE.

Costessey.

Part I of the Costessey Sewerage scheme was completed during the year giving sewerage facilities to:—

Richmond Road.

Stafford Avenue.

Upper Stafford Avenue.

Three Mile Lane.

Dereham Road (West of Three Mile Lane).

The scheme consisted of the laying of 5,000 yards of sewer and the construction of the necessary disposal works.

Hingham.

MAIN SECTOR.

The Deopham Road sewage disposal works were completed during the year and the work of connecting house drains to the new sewer was begun.

By the end of the year, 32 Council houses in Lincoln Avenue, Norwich Road and Ringers Lane and 28 private properties had been connected.

FROST ROW PUMPING AREA.

The work of laying sewers and constructing an ejector station to serve that part of Hingham west of the water tower was completed in 1953.

Hethersett and Poringland.

Schemes have been prepared for these two parishes and provisionally approved by the Council for submission to the Ministry.

General Comments.

It is gratifying to note that real progress is now being made with the provision of modern amenities throughout the district.

As noted under Housing, the Council need to give early consideration to this question as it affects the pre-war type of Council house.

SOCIAL HEALTH.

Old People's Clubs.

Three new old people's clubs have been started during 1953 at:—

Deopham, Wicklewood, Hingham.

The nine flourishing clubs in the district provide a regular, cheerful meeting place for the elderly residents of these parishes. They meet at the following times and places:—

Old Costessey, Parish Room, 2nd Thursday each month,
2.30—4.30 p.m.

New Costessey, Scouts Hut, 2nd Thursday each month,
2.30—4.30 p.m.

Deopham, Church Room, Alternate Tuesdays, 2.15—4.30 p.m.

Hethersett, Methodist Chapel, Alternate Wednesdays, 2.30—5 p.m.

Hingham, Lincoln Hall, Alternate Thursdays, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Poringland, Village Hall, 2nd Thursday each month, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Saxlingham, Village Hall, every Thursday except 2nd,
2.30—4.30 p.m.

Trowse, Church Room, Every Thursday except 2nd, 2.30—4.30 p.m.

Wicklewood, Village Hall, alternate Wednesdays, 2.30—
4.30 p.m.

There are still some places where new clubs could be started for the benefit of the older parishioners and I should like to see them in being at Wreningham, Stoke Holy Cross and possibly Rockland St. Mary.

No better method exists of maintaining mental and physical health in later years than the incentive of happy club companionship. This is a most effective form of preventive medicine.

COUNTY SERVICES.

Infant Welfare Service.

The County Council provide Infant Welfare Centres in the following parishes:—

Centre	Where Held	When held (day of month)
Barham Broom	Village Hall	1st Thursday
Costessey	Parish Hall	2nd and last Tuesday
Cringleford	Maycrete Hall	Last Thursday
Easton	Church Room	3rd Monday
Hethersett	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	2nd Wednesday
Kirby Bedon	Parish Room	2nd Monday
Morley St. Botolph	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	1st Wednesday
Poringland	Parish Hall	1st Tuesday
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	Last Monday
Saxlingham		
Nethergate	Village Hall	2nd Monday
Shotesham	Trinity Hall	2nd Wednesday
Stoke Holy Cross	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday

Very good attendance of mothers is still reported from all these Centres.

Welfare Service.

Headquarters:—

Local Health Office,
Area No. 4,
Aspland Road,
Norwich.

This service is greatly appreciated by the public and many callers seek help and advice from the Welfare Officers.

The old peoples clubs also provide a good means of contact between those in need of friendly assistance and those who can provide it, by voluntary or statutory means.

GENERAL SURVEY.

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year.

The rise in the death rate is due to statistical revision while the infant and tuberculosis mortality rates are commendably low.

A housing survey followed by the necessary slum clearance appears to be the most urgent need of the district, together with better amenities for those in older Council houses.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and the staff for their willing co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1953. The duties of the Public Health Department include work under the Building Bye-laws, Town and Country Planning Acts, Building Licensing, Petroleum Acts, and the Improvement Grant Section of the Housing Act, 1949.

During the year the following staff changes took place:—
The Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed to the newly created post of Water and Sewerage Engineer, and the Junior Typist obtained another appointment, and was replaced.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Inspections:—The following is a summary of the main inspections and visits made during the year:—

Housing Acts	...	...	...	240
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	165
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	442
Fumigations	...	...	...	9
Disinfestations	...	...	...	5
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...			14
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	96
Water Supplies	...	...	...	259
Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yard	...			13
Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	466
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	3
Dairies and Cowsheds—Drainage	...			40
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	179
Refuse and Night Soil Collection	...			186
Cesspool Emptying	...	...	...	210
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants				75
Building Bye-laws and Town and Country Planning Acts	...	...	...	776
Building Licensing	...	...	...	21
Petroleum	...	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	174
Total				3381

WATER SUPPLY.

Despite the progress which has been made during the year in connection with the provision of mains water, it must still be stated that the general source of water supply in the district is derived from wells, mainly of the shallow type. If the present rate of main-laying continues, it is anticipated that before another year is past the larger proportion of dwellings in the district will have a mains supply available to them.

The Norwich Corporation mains supply is available in the following parishes:—

Bawburgh, Bixley, Bramerton, Caistor St. Edmunds, Costessey, Cringleford, Easton, Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot, Hethersett, Keswick, Kirby Bedon, Little Melton, Poringland, Rockland St. Mary, Shotesham, Stoke Holy Cross, Surlingham, Trowse Newton and Whitlingham.

The Wymondham U.D.C. mains supply is available in the parishes of Hackford, Hingham and Wicklewood.

The parish of Ketteringham is served by a private scheme from a deep bore on The Duke of Westminster's Estate. In most other parishes a piped supply, derived from a bore, serves Council Estates and, in a few cases, a limited number of private properties..

In the case of the public supplies, the water is regularly sampled and has been found to be of satisfactory standard and not likely to exert plumbo solvent action.

The following samples were taken during the year mainly from private wells supplying individual properties:—

	Fit	Doubtful	Unfit	Total
Combined Chemical and				
Bacteriological ...	9	—	20	29
Bacteriological only ...	2	—	6	8
Chemical only ...	—	—	—	—
Nitrate Content ...	16	3	6	25
	—	—	—	—
	27	3	32	62
	—	—	—	—

Necessary action was taken to deal with those cases shewing pollution.

The progress made and the position at the end of the year in connection with piped water schemes is contained in the Medical Officer's Report. In addition, it can be

mentioned that mains supply for the parish of Hethersett was changed over from the Wymondham U.D.C. supply to the Norwich Corporation supply.

At the end of the year out of a total of 7853 inhabited properties 3765 were receiving a piped water supply, shewing a percentage of 47.9.

EMERGENCY WATER SCHEME.

This Scheme ceased to operate on 30th April, 1953.

SEWERAGE.

The gradual increase of piped water supplies makes it more and more urgent for sewerage schemes to be installed, especially in some of the larger and the badly drained parishes.

As can be seen from the Medical Officer's Report, it is gratifying to note that real progress has been made in Costessey and Hingham, but the position in Hethersett and Poringland does not seem any more advanced and the urgency for these two parishes must again be stressed.

In addition, the need for an extension to the Costessey Scheme so as to cover the whole parish, has become first priority. I am glad to note that following upon my remarks in last year's Report, it has now been agreed by both the District and the County Council, that Saxlingham should be brought into the top priority category.

I mentioned also last year that the parish of Cringleford could still be held in abeyance, but in view of an apparent deterioration in the position regarding existing cesspools in the parish, I am compelled to issue a warning note that the time is not far ahead when Cringleford must be considered in line with the parishes already mentioned.

The 17 small schemes serving Council Estates and a limited number of private properties, have functioned satisfactorily. The usual cleaning out of sewer ditches in the parish of Hingham has been done, but the Council decided during the year not to incur any further expenditure, for the time being, in connection with Saxlingham Sewer Ditch.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

The following parishes are served by a weekly collection for the emptying of pail closets:—

Old Costessey, Hethersett, Hingham and parts of Bixley, Cringleford, Mulbarton, Poringland and Trowse Newton.

It was decided that, for the time being, no large scale extension of this service should take place. All night soil collected is disposed of by controlled tipping for manurial purposes.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

This service continued on the basis of a charge of 15/- per visit (up to 2 loads) to all private properties, and during the year the following amount of work was carried out:—

1. Total number of visits	...	...	1572
(a) Private	...	...	810
(b) Council	...	...	713
(c) Outside District	...	...	49
2. Total number of loads	...	...	4657
(a) Private	...	...	1364
(b) Council	...	...	3085
(c) Outside District	...	...	208

The disposal of cesspool contents is either by means of discharge into the sewer, or in suitable cases, on farm land.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Scheme does not include every property in the district, but all parishes are visited with the exception of Holverston, and the majority of dwellings receive a collection.

This arrangement will always lead to dissatisfaction amongst those unfortunate people who reside in properties outside the scope of the present scheme, and a number of requests for the extension of the scheme have again been received. In a few cases it has been possible to include a small number of additional properties.

The original weekly collection for certain parishes has become impossible owing to the large increase in the number of properties to be collected from in the fringe area adjacent to Norwich, and whilst it has been possible to keep up weekly collection in the parishes of Cringleford, Trowse Newton and part of Hingham, the remainder of Hingham and the parish of Costessey are in the main really on a fortnightly basis.

In connection with the original fortnightly collection over the remainder of the district, some parts have now an extended interval between collections.

The collections are made by three rear loading moving floor vehicles with an additional vehicle for relief purposes. Four points of disposal are now used, Hackford, Ketteringham, Costessey and Poringland. No special charge is made for refuse collection except for collections made from Morley and Keswick Colleges.

The following gives details of the year's work:—

Total number of Inhabited dwellings in the district	...	...	...	7853
Number of dwellings served	...	...	...	7489
Number of loads collected	...	...	...	988
Approximate tonnage	...	...	...	3458
Revenue (including salvage)	...	...	...	£235
Total cost of collection and disposal (including night soil collection and salvage)	...	...	...	£9517

SALVAGE.

As can be seen from the following Table, the total value of salvage sold during the year was less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of that sold during 1952.

SALVAGE	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper and Cardboard	24	2	3	0	50	5	6
Books and Periodicals	...	3	11	2	14	6	0
Mixed Rags	...	1	17	3	39	12	9
Light Iron	2	0	0
Mixed Iron	...	14	2	0	3	8	0
Mixed Alloy	...	3	0	0	6	0	0
Aluminium	...	3	2	0	7	0	0
Brass Copper, etc.	2	27	14	9	...
TOTALS	...	30	13	2	27	£123	7 0

HOUSING.

During the year the emphasis has continued on the provision of new houses to make up for the time lost during the war years. Full details of this side of housing work are given in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health and also in the section of this report devoted to Building Bye-laws and Town Planning.

I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to that side of the housing question relating to the Repair and Improvement of existing dwellings. It is again regrettable to have to report that during the year no real progress has been made in this sphere. Firstly, it is impossible to make much headway towards a scheme for the general improvement of the standard of housing accommodation, until a survey of the district has been made, and, secondly, this survey, together with the following-up work, cannot be undertaken unless adequate staff is available. During the year it has been possible only to deal with those urgent housing inspections which result from complaints and, as a result, the following Notices were served:—

Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	16
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	3
Demolition Orders	...	...	...	6
Undertakings accepted	...	...	...	3

The Improvement of Dwellings is now normally taken as meaning grant aided schemes under the Housing Act, 1949, Section 20.

The number of applications received during the year totalled 17 and, whilst this was a considerable increase on 1952 figures, it is, in my opinion, only touching the fringe of the great need to raise the standard of existing dwellings. The Improvement Grant Section of the 1949 Act, provides a means of financial assistance towards improvement works, but the volume of work being done is, unfortunately, restricted in most cases to one section of the community, namely, Owner/Occupiers.

Let it not be thought for one moment that I am suggesting that Owner/Occupiers' applications should be excluded or restricted in any way, this is furthest from my mind, because I consider that every type of property, irrespective of ownership should be modernised wherever possible.

What I do feel most strongly is the need for a revision of conditions governing the making of grants, so as to encourage owners to improve dwellings which are rented. One of the main points which I consider should be dealt with is the possibility of allowing the lower standard type of dwellings to be improved and modernised in two or more stages, with the provision made for proportionate grants according to the degree of improvement.

Until something of this nature is done, I am certain that the main bulk of the lower standard dwellings will remain outside the "practical" scope of the Act.

The following are details in relation to the applications received during the year:—

No. of Applications Received	No. Granted	No. Refused	No. Withdrawn	No. Pending
17	10	1	2	7
	(includes 3 1952 appl'ns).			

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The problem created by the use for moveable dwellings of a number of sites in the parish of Costessey, continued throughout the year.

It was decided to review the position and a complete survey was made of the Parish in June. At that time it was found that 31 sites were in use either for single or groups of caravans. Of these sites only 13 were the subject of applications, and 3 of these were eventually refused. There does not appear to be any hope of improvement in the position unless the Council are prepared to take drastic action.

During the year 21 applications were received in connection with sites in various parishes, including Costessey. 18 licences were issued and 3 were refused.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified which required visits and investigations remained low, but a great deal of work was involved in carrying out investigations, in cases of Dysentery and Food Poisoning and Winter Vomiting.

During the year 9 premises were disinfected after infectious disease and 5 disinfestations carried out against insect pests.

As mentioned in the Medical Officer's Report, a case of Psittacosis occurred in the District, which, in addition to being unusual, provided an opportunity for carrying out a very interesting investigation over quite a long period.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The organisation for the District continued under similar arrangements to previous years, namely, the full-time employment of one Vermin Destroyer, who carries out a complete survey parish by parish approximately twice a year.

The following details of work carried out, when compared with previous years, shews that the number of notifications received is more than double, and it has been possible to visit during the course of the survey a much larger number of dwellings.

Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the year:—

(a) By Notification	...	...	...	140
(b) Otherwise	...	...	...	6,888

Numbers of Properties found to be infested:—

(a) Major Infestation	...	...	...	6
(b) Minor Infestation	...	...	...	1,738

Number of Infested Properties treated 1,744

Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... 29

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

The following licences were granted by the District Council:—

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 9

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" 5

The following licences were granted by the Norfolk County Council:—

Pasteurisation Premises 2

During the year there was no addition to the number of dairy premises and the 8 premises in use gave no cause for complaint. It was again necessary to carry out investigation in connection with three herds where notification was received of infected bulk samples, all brucella abortus.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year the slaughter of animals for human consumption remained under the control of the Ministry of Food and attendance at the Abattoir at Swardeston resulted in a 100% examination of all animals killed.

The total number of animals killed shewed an increase of approximately 1500 over the 1952 figures. When the details are compared it will be seen that in 1953 there were less animals killed but a much larger number of pigs. Condemned meat was disposed of in accordance with the Ministry's Scheme and although the total number of animals slaughtered rose in 1953, the details in the following tables can be regarded as normal.

Number of animals killed :

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows and Boars
39	443	882	627	1180	3586	8990	768

A Total of—16,515 animals.

Condemned Meat :

Beef

		Tons	Weight Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
9 Cows	}	4	12	3	3
5 Steers					
3 Heifers					

Mutton

4 Sheep			4	0	10
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Veal

7 Calves			4	3	27
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Pork

67 Pigs	}	6	16	0	14
25 Sows and Boars					

Parts of Carcases condemned for various diseases

15	0	3	24
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TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED	26	18	3	22
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Percentage of animals condemned for Tuberculosis:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pork Pigs	Sows and Boars
0%	1.35%	0.22%	0.47%	0.17%	0%	0.12%	0.52%

Percentage of animals condemned for all diseases:—

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pork Pigs	Sows and Boars
0%	2.32%	0.56%	0.47%	5.93%	0.11%	0.75%	3.25%

In addition to the above, a small amount of tinned food-stuffs was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Knacker's Yard.

The licence was renewed in respect of one premises. The slaughter of animals at these premises did not, in itself, give rise to any complaint, but the continued carrying on of Bi-products trade again gave rise to complaints and nuisance caused by the removal, to and from the premises, of carcases and other waste matter.

Nuisances of this kind are extremely difficult to overcome, and it is to be regretted that the proposed removal of the bi-products trade to other premises, has not taken place.

ICE CREAM.

There were no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream in the district. 4 new retailers were added to the register for the sale of pre-packed ice cream.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS AND TOWN PLANNING NEW BUILDINGS.

The following new buildings were approved:—

	Houses	Bungalows	Total
By Local Authority ...	8	32	40
By Private Enterprise ...	57	162	219
Conversions and Adaptations	1	1	2

The following dwellings were completed:—

By Local Authority ...	114	16	130
By Private Enterprise ...	47	62	109
Conversions and Adaptations	1	1	2

BUILDING LICENSING.

No. of licences issued ...	14	amounting to £13,365
Licences issued by the Ministry of Works ...	10	amounting to £17,354

New Dwellings :

	Houses	Bungalows	Total
No. of Licences issued ...	59	130	189

GENERAL.

The year which has passed has shewn steady progress in many public health matters, especially those connected with water and sewerage.

There is still the urgent need for a special effort to be made in the sphere of housing, and in this respect the appointment of additional staff to replace that now engaged on water and sewerage, is a matter which should receive early consideration.

The work of a Public Health Department nowadays, is always being augmented by fresh legislation, the need for sudden concentration on one particular section of the work, the relaxation of controls, not to mention priority work which must be undertaken at a moment's notice in connection with such matters as Infectious Disease, including outbreaks of Food Poisoning.

A glance at the figures given under the "Inspections" Section at the beginning of this Report, shews that during 1953 the bulk of the work carried out by the Department concerned Meat and Food Inspections, Infectious Disease Enquiries and Building Bye-law Inspections, to the detriment of other important day to day public health functions.

Towards the end of the year concern was being felt by Local Authorities in connection with two matters which would probably come into operation during 1954, namely the Housing Rent Repairs Bill, and the De-control of slaughtering and Distribution of Meat.

As mentioned previously, the amount of work carried out under the Housing Act, 1949 — Improvement Grant Section, has been disappointing, and I can refer only to my previous remarks under that heading.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Council, and especially to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for the support you have given the department during the year. I should like also to record my thanks to the members of my staff for their loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. J. BROWNE, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Building Surveyor.

12 The Close,
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